

BS ADSL filter, the plug connector interfaces to a telephone network, the receptacle connector interfaces to a voice signal, and the external connection interfaces to a data signal.

REMARKS

Status Of The Claims

Claims 1-9, 11, 15 and 17-19 are pending in the Application after entry of the Amendments.

Claims 1-16 are rejected by the Examiner.

Applicant has cancelled Claims 10, 12-14 and 16 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicant has amended Claims 1, 2, 9 and 15 without prejudice.

Applicant has added Claims 17-19.

Claim Rejections Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-16 stand rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 4,362,905 to Ismail in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,738,635 to Harrington et al.

The Examiner argues that Ismail discloses substantially the claimed invention except for the electrical conductors being coupled to a splitter and that Harrington teaches the use of a splitter to provide connection to multiple lines. Examiner therefore concludes that it would have been obvious to couple the conductors of Ismail to a splitter, as taught by Harrington, to provide connection to multiple lines.

Applicant notes that column 2, lines 56-59 of Harrington recite:

“As used in the present invention, the term splitter refers to the technique of splitting discrete insulated conductors of a telephone communications cable into two or more modular connectors.”

Applicant notes that the present invention does not contain a splitter in the sense

used by Harrington et al. (See Figure 2 of the current invention.) The invention of Harrington et al. is a telephone cable conductor splitter. By contrast, the present invention provides an in-line interconnection between a network, such as a telephone network, and a filter, such as an ADSL filter. Harrington et al. does not disclose signal splitting.

In the present invention, the term splitter refers to a signal splitter, such as an ADSL filter, wherein high and low pass frequency filters “split-out” different frequency bands representing separate signals, such as, for example, the low frequency voice signal and the higher frequency data signal, from a composite telephony line signal. This is distinguished from conductor splitting as in Harrington et al. High and low frequency signal splitting is not disclosed in Harrington et al.

Harrington et al. does not disclose an interface adapter for coupling network conductors to a signal splitter as does the present invention of amended Claims 1 and 9. As compared to the present invention, Harrington et al. discloses a different technique to achieve a different result on different subject matter.

In consideration of the above, neither Ismail nor Harrington et al., either separately or combined, teach the limitations of amended Claims 1 and 9 of the present invention. Since both Ismail and Harrington et al. combined fail to teach at least one limitation of amended Claims 1 and 9, the references cannot render obvious the claimed invention. Applicant traverses the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections on independent Claims 1 and 9 and their dependent Claims of 2-8, 11, 15, and 17-19.

Claim Rejections Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Examiner rejects Claims 13 and 14 as being anticipated by US Patent No. 5,930,340 to Bell. Applicant has cancelled independent Claim 13 and related dependent

Claims 14 and 16 without prejudice or disclaimer to traverse the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection.

Applicant's Amendments

Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 9 to include the distinction of a signal splitter.

Applicant has amended Claim 9 to encompass dependent Claims 10 and 12, now cancelled.

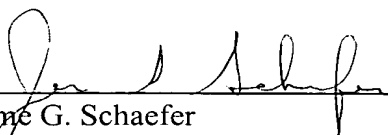
Applicant has amended Claims 2 and 15 to refer to an external connection. As stated hereinabove, Applicant has cancelled Claims 13, 14 and 16 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicant respectfully asserts that the claims of the present invention, as amended, are in a condition for Allowance.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the subject application in light of the reasons set forth herein, and a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims is earnestly solicited.

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Jerome G. Schaefer
Registration No. 50,800

Woodcock Washburn LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

1. (Twice Amended) An interface adapter, comprising:
 - a housing that defines an interior region of the adaptor and an exterior region, the housing having an entrance face;
 - a plurality of electrical conductors extending into the interior region of the adaptor through the entrance face of the housing, the electrical conductors coupled to a signal splitter;
 - a plug connector coupled to a first subset of the electrical conductors, the plug connector located in the exterior region; and
 - a receptacle connector coupled to a second subset of the electrical conductors, the receptacle connector being accessible from the exterior region to receive a compatible plug connector.
2. (Once Amended) The adapter of claim 1, further comprising [a data terminal connected] an external connection to a third subset of the electrical conductors.
9. (Twice Amended) A method for installing a[n asymmetrical digital] subscriber line [(ADSL) interface], comprising:
 - providing an interface adapter, comprising:
 - a housing that defines an interior region of the adapter and an exterior region, the housing having an entrance face;
 - a plurality of electrical conductors extending into the interior region of the adaptor through the entrance face of the housing, the electrical conductors

coupled to a signal splitter;

a first plug connector coupled to a first subset of the electrical conductors, the first plug connector located in the exterior region; [and]

a first receptacle connector coupled to a second subset of the electrical conductors, the first receptacle connector being accessible from the exterior region; and

an external connection to a third subset of the electrical conductors;

inserting the first plug connector into a compatible receptacle connector; [and]

inserting a compatible plug connector into the first receptacle connector[.]; and

coupling the subscriber line to the external connection.

10. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Once Amended) The adaptor of claim 1, wherein the [data terminals] external connection comprises lugs.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Newly Added) The interface adapter of Claim 1, wherein the plug connector and the receptacle connector are selected to be compatible with an in-line insertion of the interface adapter into a network.

18. (Newly Added) The interface adapter of Claim 2, wherein the first set of electrical conductors connect to a network, the second set of electrical conductors connect to a first set of signal conductors driven by the signal splitter and the third set of electrical conductors connect to a second set of signal conductors driven by the signal splitter.

19. (Newly Added) The interface adapter of Claim 2, wherein the signal splitter is an ADSL filter, the plug connector interfaces to a telephone network, the receptacle connector interfaces to a voice signal, and the external connection interfaces to a data signal.